

in Taiwan. Since the lifting of martial law in 1987, Taiwan has made consistent strides toward becoming an open, democratic society where freedoms are respected and the will of the people is observed. To the credit of the many Taiwanese-Americans who fought to bring democratic principles back to the island, Taiwan is now a vibrant democratic member of the international community.

The March 18, 2000, election of opposition leader Chen Shui-bian as president, and Annette Lu as vice-president, represents the crowning achievement of the struggle of the people of Taiwan for full-fledged democracy and freedom. As we all know, in a democracy, it is the elections won by opposition parties that dictate the peaceful nature of the change of power.

While the future of a democratic Taiwan is promising, many challenges remain. Gaining worldwide recognition of the legitimacy of Taiwan's government is paramount. With all that Taiwanese and Taiwanese-Americans have accomplished, there is still much more work to be done before Taiwan's status and global contributions are properly appreciated. We remain confident that Taiwan will meet their challenges and continue to play a productive role in the international community.

Taiwan and the United States share a common commitment to the ideals of democracy, freedom and human rights. The 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which forms the official basis for friendship and cooperation between the United States and Taiwan provides a strong foundation for the bond between the people of both countries. That bond is made stronger each day by the Taiwanese-American community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Taiwanese-American community for their strength, commitment and contributions during Taiwanese-American Heritage Week.

BUSH ENERGY PLAN

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, President Bush's energy plan fails on several counts, but I am particularly concerned about the fact that it completely ignores the immediate need for a short-term response to the energy crisis that is negatively impacting California.

Businesses are closing, Mr. Speaker, and people are losing their livelihoods and their ability to provide for their families.

For example, L.A. Dye & Print Works Incorporated, one of southern California's largest textile firms employing 700 people, closed its doors at the end of April.

Their natural gas costs had soared from about \$120,000 per month to over \$600,000 per month—that's 5 times higher than their costs at the start of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that this crisis is not just a California crisis, but one that is spilling over to other western states and to states across this nation.

In spite of this reality, pleas to the Bush Administration and to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to implement temporary cost-based pricing, which would stabilize en-

ergy prices while still allowing generators and marketers to make a healthy profit, have fallen on deaf ears.

At a time when forecasts predict that prices may hit \$3 per gallon in California and New York this summer, the Administration's only solution is to drill for oil in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This approach ignores the fact that drilling in Alaska won't produce a barrel of oil for a decade, when Americans need relief now.

Mr. Speaker, the Administration's plan is also short sighted in that it fails to adequately support other important energy initiatives that would provide our nation with a well-balanced and comprehensive energy plan. This is demonstrated by the Administration's 27% cut in energy efficiency programs and 26% cut in renewable energy programs.

Americans want the President to stop the power generators from raiding their pockets and to stop catering to his friends in the oil industry. Americans need the President to put together a national energy policy plan that addresses both the short- and long-term needs for everyone in this country.

Americans need a plan like the Democratic energy plan, which provides assistance for business and consumers without compromising our nation's fundamental values.

TRANSCRIPT OF THE 48TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House and Senate Prayer Groups, it was an honor to chair the 48th Annual National Prayer Breakfast held on February 3rd, 2000.

Each year, leaders and guests from across the nation and around the world meet in our capital city to share breakfast and to celebrate a mutual faith in God. We join in respect and love in a remarkable time of fellowship to honor the spiritual principles that are the heritage of our country and the God who has blessed us with them. We meet not as members of different countries and creeds but as children of God to pray for guidance and peace.

Participating in the National Prayer Breakfast has been an honor and a blessing for me. The thoughts and prayers shared at this year's breakfast were of great value to those who attended, and I believe they will be so to many more. I am therefore including the program and transcript to be printed in the RECORD.

The program and transcript follow:

2000 NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

REP. ZACH WAMP: I am here to greet you in the spirit of Jesus this morning, on behalf of the Prayer Breakfast Group, and to introduce to you Maceo Sloan, the chairman, president, and chief executive officer of the Sloan Financial Group who will offer our pre-breakfast prayer. Please welcome Maceo Sloan.

MR. SLOAN: Good morning. George Washington Carver said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong, because some day in

life you will have been all of these." We must remember that our nation will not be judged by how prosperous we were or how innovative we were in business, but with how we assisted those most in need of a fair chance and opportunity. We must further realize that America's success is predicated on these values, and that we violate those principles if we do not reach back and embrace those Americans who have not had an opportunity nor have they benefited from our rising tide, for while a rising tide may rise all boats, it does not help if you do not have a boat. As the Reverend Jesse Jackson has said, "We have removed the ceiling above our dreams. There are no more impossible dreams."

My prayer for America today can be found in part in John, chapter 3, verse 18. Let us pray: Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth. We ask you dear Lord to open our hearts to those who need our guidance, love, compassion and understanding. Lord, we are assembled here today to ask you to strengthen our commitment to love one another. We ask you to heal our nation and direct our path to righteousness. These things we ask in your name. Amen.

REP. WAMP: Thank you, Maceo. Your Congressional hosts have provided for our international guests translation into the following six languages: Chinese, German, Russian, French, Korean, and Spanish. Anyone who desires translation and has not picked up a radio receiver, please raise your hand at this time and an usher will provide you with one. For those who may need to hear the English amplified, it is also available on the radio receivers on Channel 1.

Ladies and gentlemen, if I may have your attention, for all of our enjoyment this morning, it is my privilege to introduce the Bethune-Cookman Concert Chorale. Welcome them.

(Choral Performance.)

SEN. CONNIE MACK: Good morning. My name is Connie Mack, and as the leader of the Senate Prayer Breakfast Group, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this special occasion on behalf of both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. Members of the Senate and the House want to express a warm welcome to President and Mrs. Clinton. We are deeply honored by your presence. You have been with us every year of your presidency, and again, we are deeply grateful for your presence here with us this morning. (Applause.)

A year ago, I had the pleasure of hearing a choral group from Bethune-Cookman College, located in Daytona, Florida, sing at the inauguration of Governor Jeb Bush. I was so moved by their performance, I invited them to sing here at the breakfast this morning. (Applause.) They are going to perform again for us, The Battle Hymn of the Republic.

(Choral Performance.)

SEN. MACK: Again, I want to thank the Bethune-Cookman Concert Chorale. You have truly touched our souls and moved our hearts this morning. Thank you for getting us off to a great start.

At this point I would like to call General Joseph Ralston, United States Air Force and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to offer the opening prayer.

GEN. RALSTON: Let us pray: Dear God, on this day of prayer, we join together in thanksgiving for the many blessings you share with us. We thank you for a land of abundant treasures, a people of limitless talents, and a nation of priceless freedoms, including freedom of religion. We ask that you grant us the wisdom, courage and strength to be faithful stewards of this trust so that future generations may benefit as we have from your bountiful gifts.

We are blessed today because we are joined by so many people, from so many nations, so

many cultures, and so many religions who share in the unifying power of prayer. We ask that you enlighten all of us that we may find the path to peace and freedom, and that we all may come to embrace our similarities and resolve our differences.

We especially ask that you extend your guidance to those who have been chosen to lead your people throughout the world. Please give them the discernment of mind, heart and spirit to be benevolent and just in all they do.

Dear God, though we are of many faiths, we have one prayer in common, that you would use each of us as instruments of your peace, that we may ease the burdens of those less fortunate.

We ask this in your name. Amen.

SEN. MACK: I would ask you, if you have not already had breakfast to go ahead and eat your breakfast. Normally we have a 20 to 25 minute period for breakfast, but we have an extended program this morning and we want to get you out on time, so this is going to be an abbreviated period of about five minutes. I will be back with you in a moment.

(Breakfast)

SEN. MACK: The first prayer breakfast took place in 1953 during the administration of President Dwight David Eisenhower, and every president since President Eisenhower has been very supportive and involved in this annual event. This is a moment in time when members of Congress, the President and other national leaders and leaders and heads of countries from around the world come together in one gathering to reaffirm our trust in God and recognize the reconciling power of prayer. Although we face tremendous challenges each day in our lives, our hearts can be strengthened both individually and collectively as we seek God's wisdom and guidance together.

As I have traveled around the world, I have been blessed with the opportunity to meet with the leaders of government, business, education and clergy in the spirit of the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. We gather in small groups representing all religions, political, cultural and economic backgrounds. We gather in the spirit of brotherhood, in the spirit of love, and in the love of God. We are gathered here this morning in that spirit, in the presence of our God. We are reminded to live each day sharing with each other, our families, our friends, and yes, even our adversaries, the peace and joy which comes from following the teachings of Jesus, teachings which speak to us of the importance of love, of hope, of peace, of joy. But the most important of these is love. In these moments we affirm who we are and why God has called us to be servant leaders in such a time as this. Once again, we join with our founders in committing our lives to God, as sovereign of our lives, and our country, and our world.

At this time, I would like to introduce the folks seated at the head table. Starting on your left and my far right—and I know that probably bothers him a little bit to be referred to as “to my far right”—my cousin, Federal Appellate Judge Richard Arnold. General Joseph Ralston, who you heard from a moment ago. Mrs. Ralston. Hadassah Lieberman, wife of Senator Joe Lieberman. Senator Joe Lieberman. My partner in life, Priscilla Mack. The First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton. The President of the United States, the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton. Speaker of the House, the Honorable Dennis Hastert. The Representative of the Vatican to the United States, the Apostolic Nuncio, the Very Reverend Gabriel Montalvo. Congressman from Pennsylvania, the Honorable Mike Doyle. Ms. Amy Grant. Mrs. Joseph Gildenhorn, wife of Ambassador Gildenhorn. The former Ambassador to Swit-

zerland, the Honorable Joseph Gildenhorn. Reverend Franklin Graham. And a young lady I was worried about for a few minutes, but she is here with us now, Erin Hughes. Mr. Maceo Sloan, who you heard from earlier this morning.

It is my privilege at this time to introduce to you the Honorable Mike Doyle, Congressman from Pennsylvania, who is the leader of the House Prayer Breakfast Group. Mike will speak on behalf of the House and the Senate Prayer Breakfast Groups.

REP. DOYLE: Thank you very much, Senator. I feel a little vertically challenged this morning. I'm going to stand up a little bit to see you. How's that, huh? (Laughter and applause.) It's not easy being short.

It is a real honor to be here this morning. Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Speaker, His Excellency, distinguished guests one and all, fellow sinners—have I left anyone out? (Laughter.) I want you to know it is my distinct pleasure to bring you greetings from the United States House of Representatives. I want to especially welcome our international guests, people who have traveled thousands of miles to be here with us today. Welcome. We are glad you are here.

My job this morning is to tell you a little bit about our Prayer Breakfast here in the nation's capital. Every Thursday morning we gather in the Capitol, approximately 50 or 60 members of the House, Republicans and Democrats, all religious faiths, every background, from every part of the country, and it is members only, with a few rare exceptions. The amazing thing is that what is said in that room stays in that room. That is probably unique in all of Washington, D.C.

We have breakfast together, we hear a Scripture reading, and we try to sing. We sing a hymn each morning, and some days are better than others. Then we get a member to come up and share a little bit about their life—their political journey, how they got here to Washington, D.C., their family, and most importantly, their spiritual journey. I can tell you that we learn more about a member of Congress from those 30 minutes when that member shares, than from any other activity that takes place on the House floor.

It truly is an amazing event to watch people who you see for the first time. You think, “I don't really have much in common with that person, or I might not particularly like that person.” Then they share their heart and tell their story and you get to see what is really inside a person. You realize that although there are so many things that separate us and there are so many differences, there is so much more that bring us together. It is in the spirit of Jesus Christ that we meet, that people open up their hearts and you get to see what is inside. It changes how you feel about people, and it changes your own life.

There is a verse in the Bible that says, “Fix your eyes not on what is seen, but on that which is unseen, for what is seen is temporary, but that which is unseen is eternal.” I just want to take one moment to tell you how that verse changed my life and to challenge everybody in this room to take that verse and change someone else's life with it too.

When I got to Congress in 1994, it took me about a week to realize that one of the first things you do is try to get your committee assignments. I learned right away I was not going to be sitting on the Appropriations Committee or the Ways and Means Committee as a freshman, and decided I wanted to be on the Veterans Affairs Committee because we have a lot of veterans back in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I got on this committee, and the chairman at that time was a gentleman by the name of Sonny Mont-

gomery. There was a subcommittee I wanted to serve on, the Hospital Subcommittee, but that subcommittee was pretty full. There was only one slot open and I did not have the seniority to get on the committee. I saw Sonny in the gym and I told him how much I wanted to serve on that committee, that my father was a 100 percent service-connected disabled veteran, that what the VA hospitals did for my family meant a lot to me and I would like to be able to serve on that committee. Sonny told me there were no slots on that committee.

The morning we got to the committee meeting to draw the committee assignments, I was told that I had a slot on that subcommittee because Sonny Montgomery had stepped off that committee as the chairman so that I could be on the committee. He traded something that was seen for something that was not seen. I did not know what that second half was, but that week I saw Sonny in the gym, and he asked me if I would come to the prayer breakfast that met on Thursday mornings in the House. I had never heard of it before and probably would have never attended. But because Sonny did that for me, and he did not even know me, I thought it was just a wonderful gesture on his part, I said, “Sure, I'll come to the prayer breakfast.”

And that is how I was first acquainted with the prayer breakfast. Here I am, six years later, having the privilege to serve as President of the House Prayer Breakfast. That single act changed my life down here in Washington, D.C., because somebody took something that was seen and traded it for something much more powerful, that which is unseen.

I know Sonny is here. I see him sitting right there at the first table. Sonny Montgomery, thank you for helping to change my life.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is my message today. Think about that when you go home. What is seen is just so temporary, but the unseen things in life, love, are the really powerful things in your life. Touch someone else's heart when you go home today. Trade something seen for something unseen, and you will change people's lives.

God bless you all.

SEN. MACK: Mike, thank you for that story and for helping us interpret the meaning of the Scripture that you read. Thank you again very much for that personal story.

We will now hear a reading from the Old Testament by the Honorable Joseph Gildenhorn, former Ambassador to Switzerland, a man who has been involved with this gathering for many years.

AMB. GILDENHORN: Thank you, Senator. As we start the new millennium, our hope, desire and prayer is to promote peace throughout the world. Our country's divine mission is to help find solutions to problems facing nations both in distress and in turmoil. To me, this is America's noblest calling, to be a strong and trusted peacemaker and peacekeeper wherever conflicts occur. We pray that we are successful in meeting this awesome responsibility, not only for ourselves but for our fellow man. I believe that the unqualified acceptance by our country to play a major leadership role in seeking universal peace poignantly demonstrates the greatness of America as we look to the future.

I have chosen a passage from the book of Micah, chapter 4, verses 1-5, which I believe is relevant to this message. It reads: “But in the last days it shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountain, and shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall go unto it. And many nations shall come and say, Come, let us go up to the

of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples and shall decide for strong nations afar off, and they shall beat swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war anymore. But they shall sit, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk, everyone in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever."

SEN. MACK: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

The music of Amy Grant has touched the lives of people throughout the world. She has toured extensively, spreading a message of hope and love, and her faith has been the driving force of what she has done in the past 20 years. I am pleased to have Amy with us this morning, singing the beautiful "El-Shaddai."

(Amy Grant performs.)

SEN. MACK: Amy, once again you have reminded us that music truly is the voice of the soul. Thank you very much for that beautiful song.

It is now a special pleasure and a delight, frankly, to introduce a gentleman from Arkansas, of whom I am very proud. He is my cousin, Richard Arnold, and he is a federal judge with the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. Richard will read a Scripture reading from the New Testament.

JUDGE ARNOLD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew: The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone has found. He hides it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he finds one of great value, he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a drag net that is cast into the sea and brings in a haul of all kinds of fish. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore. Then sitting down, they collect the good ones in baskets and throw away those that are of no use. "Have you understood all this?" He said. They said, "Yes." And He said to them, "Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the Kingdom of Heaven is like a householder who brings out from his store room new things as well as old."

SEN. MACK: Thank you, Richard.

Last year we had a conversation with the Vatican about the possibility of the Pope coming to this prayer breakfast. However, we were unable to make the arrangements. We do have, however, a very special message personally written by Pope John Paul II, which has been sent to us through the Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the Apostolic Nuncio in the United States. It is my pleasure now to introduce the Most Reverend Gabriel Montalvo, who will bring to us the special message from the Pope.

ARCHBISHOP MONTALVO: To the distinguished participants in the 48th National Prayer Breakfast. "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him and all the ages. To Him be glory and power through every age, forever. Amen"

With this ancient invocation to the Lord of History, I greet all of you and thank you for the gracious invitation extended to me through Senator Connie Mack, to address the 48th National Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Congress of the United States. Although it is not possible for me to be present in person, I am grateful for this op-

portunity to share some thoughts with you through my representative in the United States, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo.

We are now at the dawn of the new millennium, when followers of Christ throughout the world are celebrating the Great Jubilee of the year 2000, the 2000th anniversary of Christ's taking flesh and dwelling among us, the central event of history and the key to the meaning of human existence.

The beginning of the millennium evokes reflection on the passage of time, especially when we are convinced that humanity is at the crossroads and must make important decisions regarding the epoch that is opening up before us. This is a time to reaffirm our belief that the God who created the universe and fashioned human beings in his own image and likeness continues to guide and sustain human history. The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 obliges us followers of Christ to renew our faith in Christ, the key, the center and the goal of all history, the new Adam who reveals man to himself, unlocks the mystery of his origin and goal, and sheds light on the path that leads to humanity's true destiny.

This great vision of faith has an authentic public dimension: for the deeper understanding of the truth about human nature and human fulfillment, given to us by faith, naturally inspires efforts to build a better and more humane world. The century that just ended has shown clearly that immense suffering results when economic and political systems do not respect the full truth about man, his spiritual nature and his quest for the transcendent in his search for truth and freedom.

This great project—the building of our world more worthy of the human person and our society, which can foster a renaissance of the human spirit—calls also for that sense of moral responsibility which flows from commitment to truth: "walking the path of truth," as the Apostle John puts it. And such a moral responsibility, by its very nature, cannot be reduced to a purely private matter. The light of Christ should illumine every thought, word and action. There is no area of personal or social life, which is not meant to penetrate, enliven and make fruitful. The spread of a purely utilitarian approach to the great moral issues of public life points to the urgent need for a rigorous and reasonable public discourse about the moral norms that are the foundation of any just society. A living relationship with the truth, Scripture teaches, is the very source and condition of authentic and lasting freedom.

Your nation was built as an experiment in ordered freedom, an experiment in which the exercise of individual freedom would contribute to the common good. The American separation of Church and State as institutions was accomplished from the beginning of your republic by the conviction that strong religious faith, and the public expression of religiously informed judgments, contribute significantly to the moral health of the body politic. Within the fabric of your national life, a particular moral authority has been entrusted to you who are invested with political responsibility as representatives of the American people. In the great Western democratic tradition, men and women in political life are servants of the polis in its fullest sense—as a moral and civil commonwealth. They are not mere brokers of power in a political process, taking place in a vacuum, cut off from private and public morality. Leadership in a true democracy involves much more than simply the mastering the techniques of political management: your vocation as representatives calls for vision, wisdom, a spirit of contemplation, and a passion for justice and truth.

Looking back on my own lifetime, I am convinced that the epoch-making changes

taking place and the challenges appearing at the dawn of this new millennium call for just such a prophetic function on the part of religious believers in public life. And, may I say, this is particularly true of you who represent the American people, with their rich heritage of commitment to freedom and equality under the law, their spirit of independence and commitment to the common good, their self-reliance and generosity and sharing their God-given gifts. In the century just ended, this heritage became synonymous with freedom itself for people throughout the world, as they sought to cast off the shackles of totalitarianism and to live in freedom. As one who is personally grateful for what America did for the world in the darkest days of the 20th century, allow me to ask: will America continue to inspire people to build a truly better world, a world in which freedom is ordered to truth and goodness; or will America offer the example of pseudo freedom which, detached from the moral norms that give life direction and fruitfulness, turns in practice into a narrow and ultimately inhuman self-enslavement, one which murders people's spirits and dissolves the foundations of social life? These questions pose themselves in a particularly sharp way when we confront the urgent issue of protecting every human being's inalienable right to life from conception until natural death. This is the great civil rights issue of our time, and the world looks to the United States for leadership in cherishing every human life and in providing legal protection for all the members of the human community, but especially those who are weakest and most vulnerable.

For believers who bear political responsibility, our times offer a daunting yet exhilarating challenge. I even go so far as to say that their task is to save democracy from self-destruction. Democracy is our best opportunity to promote the values that will make the world a better place for everyone, but a society that extols individual choice as the ultimate source of truth undermines the very foundations of democracy. If there is no objective moral order that everyone must respect, and if each individual is expected to supply his or her own truth and ethic of life, there remains only the path of contractual mechanisms as the way of organizing our living together in society. In such a society, the strong will prevail and the weak will be swept aside. As we have written, "if there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political action, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. As history demonstrates, a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism."

Faith compels followers of Christ in the public arena in your country to promote a new political culture of service, based on the vision of life and civilization that has sustained the American people in their positive character and outlook that has nourished their optimism, their hope, their willingness to be generous in the service of others, and will protect them from the cynicism which dissipates the very energies needed for building the future. Today, this optimism is being tested, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains the sturdy foundation of hope for the future.

I am convinced that, precisely at these crossroads in history, Christ's message of truth and justice, and of our universal brotherhood as God's beloved children, has the power to emerge once again as the "good news" for our times, a compelling invitation to real hope. It will do so if the power of God leading to salvation is seen in the transformed lives of those who profess the Gospel as the pole star of their lives and the deepest source of their commitment to others. To

build a future of hope is, to use a favorite expression of the late Paul VI, to build a "civilization of love." Love, as Scripture teaches, casts out fear, fear of the future, fear of the other, fear that there is not enough room at the banquet of life for the least of our brothers and sisters. Love does not tear down, but is rather the virtue that builds up. And this is my prayer for you: that as men and women involved in public life, you will truly be builders of a civilization of love, of a society which precisely because it embodies the highest values of truth, justice and freedom for all, is also a sign of the presence of God's kingdom and its peace.

May God grant you peace in your personal lives, in your families, and in the country you are privileged to serve. From the Vatican, January 29, 2000, John Paul II.

SEN. MACK: Your Excellency, the members of the House and the Senate and our guests this morning feel honored and privileged to have received the message from the Pope, and we thank you for delivering it this morning.

At this time, it is my pleasure to introduce to you the Speaker of the House, Mr. Denny Hastert.

REP. HASTERT: Thank you, Senator. Would you please bow your heads and join with me in prayer.

Heavenly Father, in the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul writes that we should offer our bodies as living sacrifices to you. And Paul continues and he says we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve. If it is teaching, let him teach. If it is encouraging, let him encourage. If it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously. If it is leadership, let him govern diligently. If it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Those of us gathered here in your name, Lord, have many different gifts, but we all carry the responsibility of leadership. But our first responsibility, Lord, is to serve you. And let us remember that only through faith in you can we transcend the fears and the doubts that confront us day by day. Through your providence, you have helped place in us these positions where we can do much good. And so we pray to you, Lord, to help us govern diligently, to bless us with the wisdom we need to make the decisions that will best help our nation.

Lord, also help us to remember your goodness and your mercy so that we may show that goodness and mercy to others. And help us to always remember why we have been called into your service and into the service of this nation. Lord, as we walk these paths of responsibility and governance, let us remember that when we are on the high roads, when people are looking up to us, that we continue to look to thee so that we don't trip and fall. Lord, and when we walk the low roads, when it is dark, help us again turn to thee for your faith and your guidance and your love.

We ask this, Lord, in your precious name. Amen.

SEN. MACK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Our principal speaker today is a very dear friend, the Senator from Connecticut, Senator Joseph Lieberman. I have been privileged in my years in the Senate to have known Joe. He is a participant in our weekly Senate prayer breakfast. Joe and I have worked together in the Senate on a number of issues, and we have traveled together and had great times together. He is truly one of the finest men I have known. And he has sometimes been referred to as the conscience of the Senate. It is a special joy to be able to present to you my friend and colleague, Senator Joe Lieberman.

SEN. LIEBERMAN: Here is evidence of the power of prayer to raise a man up. (Laughter.) Thank you, Connie Mack, my dear friend. You are one of the most thoughtful, decent, loving people that I have ever met or known. You not only give politics a good name, you give humanity a good name. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Perhaps you can hear—I have been struggling with a cold and a sore throat for the last few days. This brings to mind an incident that happened many years ago when I went to a synagogue in my home city of New Haven. The Rabbi got up at the time for the sermon and he said, "Dear congregants, those of you who have been here for the daily services and those who are here today, can hear that I have a terrible sore throat, and frankly I had decided that I would not give a sermon this morning. But then I thought to myself, why should you derive pleasure from my misery?" (Laughter.) So, with that in mind, I proceed.

Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Speaker Hastert, distinguished clergy, particularly here at the head table, Archbishop Montalvo and Reverend Graham, other head table guests, honored guests in the hall, ladies and gentlemen, to each and every one of you, I extend the greeting that the people of Jerusalem in temple times extended to those who came to thank God for his blessings. (In Hebrew.) "Blessed be those who come in the name of the Lord."

Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, I want to particularly pray for you this morning as we begin a session of Congress and you begin the final year of this extraordinary administration. God has given you gifts that you have used so magnificently in the service of the people of this country, indeed, of the people of the world, literally raising up millions of our fellow citizens and making peace in places where most people thought that was impossible. God has given you many gifts, and this morning I thank God particularly for the gift that God has given you, Mr. President, to speak the language of faith as you have at moments of crisis in our history over the last seven years in a way that is powerfully unifying and inclusive. May God bless both of you, not only this year, but as you continue your lives of service in the years ahead. God bless you. (Applause.)

This morning, uniquely in this place, this very temporal city we come together to reach up to the timeless, which brings to mind the story of the man who is blessed to be able to speak with God. And in awe of the Lord's freedom from human constraints of time and space asks respectfully, "Lord, help me understand—what is a second of time like to you?" And God answers, "A second, my son, to me is like a thousand years." The man then asks, "Then Lord, help me to understand in my own mundane way—what is a penny like to you?" "To me," the Lord declares, "A penny is like a million dollars." The man pauses, thinks for a moment, and then asks, "Lord, would you give me a penny?" And God answers, "I will, in a second." (Laughter and applause.)

I am honored deeply by being asked to speak to you this morning. But as that story suggests, I proceed with a profound sense of my own human limitations.

I want to begin by talking with you about the weekly Senate prayer breakfast. Those still small gatherings that have, along with their counterpart in the House, spawned this magnificent National Prayer Breakfast, as well as similar meetings in every American state and so many countries throughout the world.

When I was first invited to the Senate Prayer Breakfast years ago, I found a lot of excuses not to go. Some were good, like my reluctance to leave my family early on an-

other weekday morning. But some excuses turned out to be not so good, like my apprehension that the Senate Prayer Breakfast was really a Christian breakfast, and that because I am Jewish, either I might feel awkward or my presence might inhibit my Christian friends in the Senate in their expressions of faith. Well, I turned out to be wrong on both counts. The regular participants in the breakfast and our wonderful shepherd, Chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie, persisted and finally convinced me to attend by employing a tactic that usually works with us politicians. They asked me to be the speaker. (Laughter.)

That was a very important morning in my now 11 years in Washington. We began with prayer and readings from the Bible, and then called on the Chaplain who told us about some people in the Senate family we might want to pray for because they were ill or had lost loved ones. And then it was my turn. I spoke about the Passover holiday and answered some very thoughtful questions. At the end, we joined hands and prayed together. All in all, it lasted less than an hour, but I will tell you, I was moved that morning. More than that, I felt at home. I found a home. Today, years later, I can tell you that the Senate Prayer Breakfasts have become the time in my hectic life in the Senate when I feel most at home, most natural, most free, most tied to a community, because when we are at those breakfasts, we are there not as senators, not as Republicans or Democrats or liberals, or conservatives—not even particularly as Christians or Jews. We are there as men and women of faith, linked by a bond that transcends all the other descriptors and dividers, our shared love of God, and acceptance of his sovereignty over us, in our common commitment to struggle to live according to the universal moral laws of the Lord.

I pray that all of you who have come from so many places, some from so far to be here this morning, feel that same unifying, humanizing, elevating love. And I also pray as we begin this new session of Congress that your presence will inspire those of us who are privileged to serve in government to appreciate the truth that is so palpable at these breakfasts. What unites us is so much greater than what divides us. The work that needs to be done for the people we in government serve will best be done if we work together and we will work together best if we understand that we are blessed, not only to be citizens of the same beloved country, but children of the same awesome God.

Praying for the Lord's guidance, as Connie has said as we begin a new session of Congress, has been the traditional purpose of this National Prayer Breakfast. But there is another stated aspiration, and I quote, "To reaffirm our faith and renew the dedication of our nation and ourselves to God and his purposes."

I want to speak with you about that second goal this morning because I believe it is critically important at this moment in our national history, when our economic life and so much else is thriving, but there is evidence that our moral life is stagnating. Although so much is so good in our country today, there are other ways in which we need to do better. There is, for example, compelling evidence that our culture has coarsened, that our standards of decency and civility have eroded, and that the traditional sources of values in our society—faith, family and community—are in a life and death struggle with the darker forces of immorality, inhumanity and greed.

From the beginning of our existence, we Americans have known where to turn in such times of moral challenge. John Adams wrote, "Our Constitution was made only for a

moral and religious people." George Washington warned us never to indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. That is why we pledge our allegiance, after all, to one nation, under God, and why faith has played such a central role in our nation's history.

Great spiritual awakenings have brought strength and purpose to the American experience. In the 18th century, for instance, the First Great Awakening put America on the road to independence and freedom and equality. In the 19th century, the Second Awakening gave birth to the abolitionist movement, which removed the stain of slavery from American life and made the promise of equality more real. And early in the 20th century, a third religious awakening led to great acts of justice and charity toward the poor and the exploited, which expressed themselves in a progressive burst of social and humane legislation.

In recent years, I believe, there have been clear signs of a new American spiritual awakening. This one began in the hearts of millions of Americans like you who felt threatened by the vulgarity and violence in our society and turned to religion as the best way to rebuild a wall of principle and purpose around themselves and their families. Christians flocked to their churches, Jews to their synagogues, Muslims to their mosques, and Buddhists and Hindus to their temples. Others chose alternate spiritual movements as their way to values, order and peace of mind. I have thought at times that it has been as if millions of modern men and women were hearing the ancient voice of the prophet Hosea saying, "Thou hast stumbled in thine iniquity, therefore, turn to thy God, keep mercy and justice."

This morning I want to ask all of you here to think with me how we can strengthen and expand the current spiritual awakening so that it not only inspires us individually and within our separate faith communities, but also renews and elevates the moral and cultural life of our country. Let me suggest that we can begin by talking more to each other about our beliefs and our values, talking in the spirit of these prayer breakfasts—open, generous, and mutually respectful—so that we may strengthen each other in our common quest.

The Catholic theologian Michael Novak has written wisely, "Americans are starved for good conversations about important matters of the human spirit. In Victorian England, religious devotion was not a forbidden topic of conversation, sex was. In America today, the inhibitions are reversed." So, let us break through those inhibitions to talk together, study together, and pray together, remembering the call in Chronicles to give thanks to God, to declare his name and to make his acts known among the peoples, to sing to him, and speak of all his wonders. And I would add that we who believe and observe have an additional opportunity and responsibility to reach out to those who may neither believe nor observe and reassure them that we share with them the core values of America, and that our faith is not inconsistent with their freedom, that our mission is not one of intolerance but of love.

Discussion, and study and prayer, I think, are only the beginning, because we know, all of us from our faith communities, that in the end we will be judged by our behavior. In the Koran, the prophet says, "So woe to the praying ones who are unmindful of their prayer and refrain from acts of kindness." Isaiah at one point seems to summarize the entire Torah in two acts: keep justice and do righteousness. And the Beatitudes inspire and direct us beautifully to action. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are

the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

Turning faith into action I think is particularly appropriate in this millennial year, whose significance will be determined not by turning a page on our calendars at work or home, but by turning a page on the calendars of our hearts and deeds. To make a difference, we must take our religious beliefs and values, our sense of justice and right and wrong into America's communal and cultural life. In fact, I want to suggest to you this morning that there is good news, that that has begun to happen. In our nation's public places, including our schools, people are finding constitutional ways to honor and express faith in God. In the entertainment industry, a surge of persistent public pressure, a revolt of the revolted, has prodded at least some executives to acknowledge their civic responsibility to our society and our children. It is even happening in government, my friends, where we have come together, under the leadership of President Clinton in recent years, to embrace some of our best values, by enacting, for instance, new laws and programs that help the poor by reforming welfare, that protect the innocent by combating crime, and that restore responsibility and trust by balancing our budget. In communities across America, people of faith are working to repair some of the worst effects of our damaged moral and cultural life, like teenage pregnancy, family disintegration, drug dependency and homelessness. Charitable giving is up. More of the young are turning to community service. And because our economy is booming, or perhaps in spite of it, people are finding that they need more than material wealth to achieve happiness. They want spiritual fulfillment, cultural inspiration, more time with their families, and more confidence that they in their lives are making a difference for the better.

So, there is ample reason in this millennial year to go forward from this 48th National Prayer Breakfast with our hearts full of hope, ready, each of us in our own way, to serve God with gladness, to work to transform these good beginnings into America's next spiritual awakening, one that will secure the moral future of our nation and raise up the quality of life of all of our people.

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus said, "so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." And if enough of us do let our lights shine before others and involve ourselves in good works, then in time, as Isaiah prophesied, "Every valley will be exalted, every mountain and hill will be made low, the crooked will become straight, and the rough places smooth, for the earth will be full of the glory of the Lord."

Thank you, God bless you. Godspeed.

SEN. MACK: Joe, thank you very much for that most inspiring and thoughtful and beautiful presentation, the message of which is unity and love that we share among each other. Thank you again for that beautiful message.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as I mentioned a moment ago, we are deeply honored to have both the President and Mrs. Clinton with us this morning. It is now my pleasure and honor to present to you the President of the United States.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you and good morning Senator Mack, Senator Lieberman, Mr. Speaker, Congressman Doyle, other distinguished head table guests, and members of Congress and the Cabinet and my fellow Americans and our visitors who have come from all across the world. Let me thank you

again for this prayer breakfast and for giving Hillary and me the opportunity to come. I ask that we remember in our prayers today the people who are particularly grieved, the men, women and children who lost their loved ones on Alaska Airlines Flight 261. And let me say to all of you, I look forward to this day so much every year; a little time to get away from public service and politics into the realm of the spirit and to accept your prayers.

This is a special year for me because, like Senator Mack, I am not coming back, at least in my present position. I have given a lot of thought to what I might say today, much of it voiced by my friend of 30 years now, Senator Joe Lieberman, who did a wonderful job for all of us.

The question I would hope that all of my fellow citizens would ask themselves today is: "What responsibilities are now imposed on us because we live at perhaps the greatest moment of prosperity and promise in the history of our nation, at a time when the world is growing ever more interdependent? What special responsibilities do we have?" Joe talked about some of them.

I sometimes think in my wry way: when Senator Mack referred to his cousin, Judge Arnold, a longtime friend of Hillary's and mine, as being on his far right and that making it uncomfortable, I laughed to myself, "That's why Connie wanted him on the bench so he'd get one more Democrat out of the public debate." (Laughter.) But I wonder how long we will be all right after this prayer breakfast. I wonder if we will make it 15 minutes or 30 or an hour; maybe we will make it 48 hours before we will just be back to normal.

So I want to ask you to think about that today: What is underneath the fundamental points that Senator Lieberman made today? For us Christians, Jesus said the two most important commandments of all were to love the Lord with all our heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Torah says that anyone who turns aside the stranger acts as if he turned aside the most high God. The Koran contains its own powerful version of the golden rule, telling us never to do unto others what we would not like done to ourselves.

So what I would like to ask you in this, my last opportunity to be the President at this wonderful prayer breakfast: Who are our neighbors? And what does it mean to love them?

His Holiness John Paul II wrote us a letter about how he answered that question, and we are grateful for that.

For me, we must start with the fact that "neighbors" mean something different today in common language than it did when I was a boy. It really means something different in common language than it did when I became president, when there were 50 websites on the world wide web. Today there are over 50 million, in only seven years, so that we see that within our borders we are not only growing more diverse every day, in terms of race and ethnic groups and religion, but we can talk to people all across the world in an instant, in ever more interesting ways that go far beyond business and commerce and politics.

I have a cousin who is from the same little town in Arkansas I am, who plays chess a couple times a week with a man in Australia, 8,000 miles away. The world is growing smaller and more interdependent.

The point I would like to make to you today is, as time and space contract, the wisdom of the human heart must expand. We must be able to love our neighbors and accept our essential oneness.

Now, globalization is forcing us to that conclusion. So is science. I have had many

opportunities to say in the last few months that the most enlightening evening I had last year was one that Hillary sponsored at the White House, where a distinguished scientist, an expert in human genome research, informed us that we are all genetically 99.9 percent the same, and furthermore said that the differences among people in the same racial and ethnic group genetically are greater than the differences from group to group.

For some, that is reassuring. For some, that is disturbing. When I said that in the State of the Union, the Republicans and Democrats both laughed uncomfortably. (Laughter.) It seemed inconceivable. (Soft laughter.) But the truth is that modern science has taught us what we always learned from ancient faiths: the most important fact of life on this Earth is our common humanity.

Our faith is the conviction of things unseen—I love what Representative Doyle said—but more and more our faith is confirmed by what we know and see. So with all the blessings we now enjoy, what shall we do with it? If we say, okay, we accept it, God, even though we don't like it everyday, we are one with our brothers and sisters. Whether we like them or not all the time, we have to be bigger. Our hearts have to grow deeper. Time and space contract; help us to expand our spirits. What does that mean?

We know we cannot build our own future without helping others to build theirs, but many of us live on the cutting edge of a new economy while over a billion people live on the bare edge of survival; and here in our own country there are still too many poor children and too many communities that have not participated in our prosperity.

The Bible says that Jesus warned us that even as we do it unto the least of these, we have done it unto our God. When times are tough and all of our fellow citizens are having a hard time pulling together, we can be forgiven if we look at the welfare of the whole. Now the welfare of the whole is the strongest it has ever been, but people within our country and beyond our borders are still in trouble—people with good values, people with the values you have held up here today, people who would gladly work. We dare not turn away from them if we believe in our common humanity.

We see all over the world a chorus of denial about our common responsibility for the welfare of this planet, even though all the scientists say that it is changing and warming at an unsustainable rate, and all the great faiths remind us of our solemn obligation to our earthly home.

Even more troubling to me, our dazzling modern world is witness to a resurgence of society's oldest demon—the inability to love our closest neighbors as ourselves if they look or worship differently from the rest of us. Today the Irish peace process is strained by a lack of trust between Republican Catholics and Protestant Unionists. In the Middle East, with all its hope, we are still having to work very hard to overcome the profoundest of suspicions between Israeli Jews and Palestinian and Syrian Arabs.

We have people here today from the Indian subcontinent, perhaps the most dangerous place in the world today because of the tensions over Kashmir and the possession of nuclear weapons. Yet, when people from the Indian subcontinent come to America, they do better than nearly anybody because of their family values, their work ethics and their remarkable innate capacity for absorbing all the lessons of modern science and technology.

In Bosnia and Kosovo, Christians thought they were being patriotic to cleanse their lands of Muslims. In other places, Islamic terrorists claim their faith commands them

to kill infidels, though the Koran teaches that God created nations and tribes that we might know one another, not that we might despise one another. Here at home, we still see Asians, blacks, gays, even in one instance last year children at a Jewish school, subject to attacks just because of who they are.

Here in Washington, we are not blameless, for we often, too, forget in the heat of political battle our common humanity. We slip from honest difference, which is healthy, into dishonest demonization. We ignore when we are all tight and in a fight, all those biblical admonitions we profess to believe, that we all see through a glass darkly; that with St. Paul, we all do what we would not and we do not do what we would; that faith, hope and charity abide, but “the greatest of these is charity”; that God says to all of us, not just some: “I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name. You are mine, all of you.”

Once Abraham Lincoln responded to some friends of his who were complaining really bitterly about politicians who would not support him. And he said to them, and I quote: “You have more of a feeling of personal resentment than I have. Perhaps I have too little of it. But I never thought it paid.”

We know it does not pay. And the truth is we are all here today because, in God's timetable, we are all just like Senator Mack and me: we are all term-limited.

In my lifetime, our nation has never had the chance we now have—to build the future of our dreams for our children, to be good neighbors to the rest of the world, to live out the admonition of all our faiths. To do it, we will have to first conquer our own demons and embrace our common humanity, with humility and gratitude.

I leave you with the words of a great prayer by Chief Seattle. “This we know: all things are connected. We did not weave the web of life. We are merely a strand in it, and whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.”

May God bless you all. (Applause.)

SEN. MACK: Mr. President, thank you for those comments. At least for me, what you said was a challenge, a challenge to reconcile the way we live, what we do, with the spirit that we hold so dear—the challenge for us as individuals and the challenge for the nation as well. Thank you so much for those beautiful words. (Applause.)

Mr. President, we have another very special moment, I think. Our closing song this morning will be sung by a young lady from my hometown of Ft. Myers, Florida. Her name is Erin Hughes. I had the joy of hearing Erin sing last year at the prayer breakfast in Ft. Myers. Erin will sing for us The Lord's Prayer.

(Erin Hughes performs.)

SEN. MACK: Wow! Thank you so much, Erin. You touched my heart a year ago, and you touched it again this morning. Thank you so much.

Now I would like to call on Reverend Franklin Graham, who will lead us in the closing prayer. But first let me say to you, Franklin, we are delighted to have you with us. Your father, Billy Graham, was one of the founders of this event in 1953, and has been with us almost every year since its inception. We wish him and your mother our best and our love, and our prayers are with both of them.

REV. FRANKLIN GRAHAM: Thank you, Senator Mack. Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Speaker, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I bring greetings to you from my mother and father. I spoke with my father last night, Mr. President, and he asked I give to you and Mrs. Clinton his love and his greetings. He is unable to be with us this

morning due to an operation that my mother had just a few days ago. She is in the hospital, and she is not doing very well. I know my mother and father would appreciate your prayers for them.

We have heard much said about a new beginning at the start of this millennium. Many would like to have a new beginning because of the mistakes and sin in their lives. They wish they could experience forgiveness and just some way start over again, to have a new beginning. This is exactly what you can have with Jesus Christ, a new beginning. In your personal life, your home, your family, in your role as a leader, in your office, in daily relationships and responsibilities, a new beginning is what Jesus Christ accomplished with his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. The Bible says that we have all sinned and come short of God's glory and that the wages of sin is death. But God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. God gives each one who will respond in faith to his son the opportunity for a new beginning. If we confess our sins to God and repent, and by faith receive Jesus Christ, God's son, into our hearts and make him the lord of our lives, God will forgive our sins. He will heal our hearts and give us the hope of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray: Our father and our God, once again, we thank you for this unique occasion that brings us together to reflect on your goodness to our nation, to meditate on thy word and pray to you with thanksgiving. We come this morning first of all to pray especially for those in leadership over us. We ask you to give wisdom and strength to our President, to our Vice President, the Cabinet, the members of the Supreme Court, the Congress, our military leaders, and all others who carry such heavy responsibility in our nation. We thank you for their willingness to give of themselves, sometimes at great personal sacrifice. We pray also for those heads of state and those who have joined us from other nations.

We humbly turn to you, oh God, for the help we need each day. In spite of the fact that we are now in the year 2000, the social problems of the world are still with us, as they have been since the dawn of history. Our tremendous technological and scientific achievements have not solved the basic human heart and the problems of this world of greed, and pride, and moral depravity and hatred, or the problem of loneliness and sorrow and suffering.

Once again as we have gathered here in this great city and amidst this bountiful breakfast, we are reminded that there are those that are hungry and hurting in this country and around the world. We pause, father, to remember those who are homeless and those who are starving, those who are living under war and oppression and persecution like in the Sudan and other parts of the world. Oh, father, guide our President and leaders in Congress as they try to solve and respond to the great political and humanitarian crises at home and around the world.

You alone have given this nation our prosperity, father. You have given our freedom, and our strength. Our faith in you, oh God, is our heritage and our foundation. We have neglected your word. We have ignored your laws. We have tried to solve our problems without reference to you, and we ask for your forgiveness. Help us this day to confess our sins and to repent and to receive by faith your salvation, your son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for our great nation and the freedoms you have given to us. With this freedom, may we not serve ourselves, but may we serve others in your holy name. Amen.

SEN. MACK: That concludes our prayer breakfast. There have been lots of people who have spent a great deal of time in preparing both the program and the breakfast this morning, and I would like for you to give them and all those who volunteered a round of applause. (Applause.)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for coming this morning. Your presence has helped to make the event a great success, and I hope you are happy that you came and that you are leaving with a very special spirit.

Good morning, and God bless.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment, and in great bewilderment over its purpose. Passing this amendment will damage the credibility of the United States in the Middle East, weaken the government of Lebanon, and further isolate and endanger Israel. It, in fact, runs counter to the objectives of establishing stability along the Lebanese-Israeli border and fostering a climate more conducive to peace in the Middle East.

While this amendment doesn't help the U.S., Lebanon, or Israel, it does strengthen the appeal of extremist groups in South Lebanon and increases Syrian influence over Lebanon. This amendment lands a haymaker on the person of innocent Lebanese civilians, USAID and U.S. educational institutions. Mr. Chairman, I cannot believe that my good friend from California really wants the result he is going to get.

Proponents of this reckless amendment have quoted a lot of sources, but I want to read what Secretary of State Colin Powell had to say about this matter. "The Department opposes the amendment proposed by Representative LANTOS to H.R. 1646. If enacted, this amendment would severely impede our ability to pursue the critical U.S. policy objectives in Lebanon and the region, including stabilizing the south and providing a counterweight to the extremist forces." Mr. Chairman, I submit a copy of this letter for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Colleagues, if you want to perpetuate instability in Lebanon and undermine the Lebanese government's efforts to rebuild the nation, the Lantos amendment is the mechanism for doing so.

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, has been quoted. He had this to say about what the Lebanese are doing: "At present, Lebanese administrators, police, security, and army personnel function throughout the area (southern Lebanon), and their presence and activities continue to grow. They are reestablishing local administration in the villages and have made progress in reintegrating

the communications infrastructure, health, and welfare systems with the rest of the country."

That is what this amendment would bring to a halt. He goes on to say. "The Lebanese Joint Security Forces proceeded smoothly, and the return to Lebanese administration is ongoing. I appeal to donors to help the Lebanese meet urgent needs for relief and economic revival in the south, pending the holding of a full-fledged donor conference."

Mr. Chairman, I submit the Secretary General's full report of October 31, 2000, for the RECORD. Mr. Annan has gone on to point out that we should help, not hurt, the Lebanese in these undertakings.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 has been cited today. I submit for the RECORD the entire text of that resolution. Had proponents of this measure read UNSCR 425, they would know that Lebanon is neither required to deploy a specific number of troops to south Lebanon, nor take specific steps to reestablish "effective control." However, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Asian Affairs Ned Walker testified to Mr. LANTOS' committee on March 29 that, "The Lebanese government has sent a thousand security forces, both military and police, to the southern area (of Lebanon)."

Last May, Israel withdrew its troops from south Lebanon for the first time since 1977. Only then did Lebanon regain the ability to govern the south. Lebanon, which is in the process of rebuilding its economy after years of war, has actively sought international aid to assist in its efforts to reunite the south with the rest of the country, replace infrastructure, and provide basic social services. Congress recognized that providing USAID assistance to Lebanon in wake of Israel's withdrawal was critical, and increased the Lebanese assistance package from \$12 to \$35 million. I would note that the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) joined me by signing a letter to President Clinton in support of this aid. I would also note that Israel received \$4.1 billion. Israel even received \$50 million from the U.S. to finance its withdrawal from Lebanon. This figure was larger than the entire Lebanese aid program.

USAID-Lebanon has developed ties and initiated projects in south Lebanon, helping fill the vacuum created by the Israel's departure. Without access to the basic life-sustaining services provided by USAID, to whom does this author think the people of south Lebanon will turn to?

Rebuilding a country after years of occupation and civil war is not an easy job. However, it is a job that is made much easier with the financial support and encouragement of the United States. The money we spend in Lebanon is minimal, but provides funding for essential public works projects, basic social services, and American educational institutions. The administration and the United Nations support these efforts, which demonstrate American goodwill to the Lebanese people at a critical time. The Lantos amendment is the way to kill these efforts and further poison the well and harm U.S. interests in the region.

I know my colleagues who support this amendment steadfastly believe that it in some way helps Israel. It won't. It does not help Israel's defenses, nor does it foster stability along the Lebanese border. It does nothing to improve relations between Israel and Lebanon, and further isolates Israel. The Lantos amendment, in fact, only increases the appeal

of organizations in South Lebanon hostile to Israel.

The only message being sent by this message is directed at the people of Lebanon, and the message being conveyed is that the United States' Middle East policy is biased against Lebanon. Instead of hope, goodwill, and encouragement, we are telling Lebanon that we are not friends and have no vested interest in helping the Lebanese rebuild their country and economy.

I urge my colleagues to read this amendment, see what it really does, and vote no. This amendment is unwise, it is irresponsible, it is destructive of American interests, it is destructive of the interests of Lebanese citizens, and it is destructive of the interests of the people of Israel and the region.

Mr. Chairman, if you want peace, if you want this country to work for and be able to effectively lead the people in this troubled area, reject this amendment. Show the Lebanese people that you support their efforts to redevelop a peaceful land. And do something else: Demonstrate to people in Lebanon and across the Middle East that this is a country that wants to be a friend of all parties.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington.

Hon. JOE KNOLLENBERG,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. KNOLLENBERG: Thank you for your letter and the chance to elaborate on my congressional testimony of May 10 on Lebanon.

The Department opposes the amendment proposed by Representative Lantos to H.R. 1646. If enacted, this amendment would severely impede our ability to pursue critical U.S. policy objectives in Lebanon and the region, including stabilizing the south and providing a counterweight to extremist forces.

The United States has provided assistance for the essential framework for alleviating destabilizing influences in Lebanon. Our economic assistance program strengthens Lebanese central government institutions, and provides a foundation for improved economic and social conditions. Our modest international military education and training (IMET) program helps build an important unifying institution. As such, U.S. assistance helps foster stability and mitigates sectarianism.

I strongly oppose the proposed amendment. I want to assure you that we are actively encouraging the Government of Lebanon to deploy its forces and assert its authority in the south, and will continue to do so. I look forward to working with Congress to advance this shared goal as part of our broader effort to work for comprehensive peace in the region.

Sincerely,

COLIN L. POWELL.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL—INTERIM
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON
INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1310 (2000) of 27 July 2000, by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of six months, until 31 January 2001, and requested me to submit an interim report on progress towards achieving the objectives of resolution 425 (1978) and toward completion by UNIFIL of the tasks originally assigned to it and to include recommendations on the tasks that could be carried out by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).